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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A virtual stored data management subsystem, the
2 virtual stored data management subsystem comprising:
3   one or more hosts; and
4   a plurality of virtual data units functionally
5 coupled to the one or more hosts, wherein the plurality
6 of virtual data units includes associated management
7 information such that the management information provides
8 first and second boundaries such that the first and
9 second boundaries limit preferences in which to store the
10 virtual data units within the stored data management
11 subsystem.

1 2. The virtual stored data management subsystem of
2 claim 1, wherein the management information is
3 independent of attributes of the virtual stored data
4 management subsystem.

1 3. The virtual stored data management subsystem of
2 claim 2, wherein the management information conforms to
3 installation criteria within the virtual stored data
4 management system.

1 4. The virtual stored data management subsystem of
2 claim 1, wherein the management information is related to

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3 attributes of the virtual stored data management
4 subsystem utilizing a plurality of rules.

1 5.   The virtual stored data management subsystem of
2 claim 4, wherein the plurality of rules are variable.

1 6.   The virtual stored data management subsystem of
2 claim 5, wherein the variable rules are an algorithm.

1 7.   The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 1,
2 wherein the management information is processed in
3 accordance with storage element attributes and further
4 comprises:
5   deriving relationships that define the first and
6 second boundaries; and
7   stipulating the first and second boundaries, wherein
8 stipulated first and second boundaries includes stated
9 relationships from derived relationships.

1 8.   The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7,
2 wherein the relationships exist only on demand.

1 9.   The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7,
2 wherein the relationships are a combination of storage
3 subsystem relationships.

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1   10.   The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 9,

2   wherein the combination of storage subsystem

3   relationships includes a redundant array of inexpensive

4   disks (RAID) and a hierarchical storage management (HSM).